

RESOURCES for AGING
October 17, 2005 (Vol. 2 No. 14)

Welcome to Resources for Aging, the biweekly electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) of the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** in **Lansing**. It provides timely information about aging network news, events and resources.

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Issues are sent directly by e-mail to those on a group e-mail list, and printed copies are mailed upon request to those who do not have Internet/e-mail access. Also, this issue and past issues can be accessed online at www.miseniors.net.

For more information about this e-newsletter, see the RESOURCES FOR AGING section at the end of this issue.

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AGING NETWORK NEWS

Governor's Elder Abuse Task Force Moves Forward

The Michigan Task Force on Elder Abuse has been meeting every month since July to formulate recommendations for a final report that will be delivered to **Gov. Jennifer Granholm** next May.

The task force was established by the Governor last May to develop a coordinated, comprehensive response to physical and emotional abuse, and financial exploitation experienced by Michigan elders.

It has met four times to recommend and review educational initiatives, public policies and legislation. Its purpose is to develop recommendations that will focus on implementing social and cultural changes that will benefit Michigan by preventing and prosecuting cases of elder abuse, as well as raising the sensitivity and awareness of the general public.

Besides reviewing existing state efforts toward prevention and prosecution of elder abuse, the task force has decided to spell out a set of pressing issues and significant challenges; review out-of-state laws, policies and practices; develop a reference database; recommend enhancement mechanisms for intercommunication between public and private sectors; begin establishing a communications network; suggest how to develop effective investigative teams; improve the scope and depth of research; develop educational approaches for enforcement professionals; and recommend a plan to expand public awareness.

OSA is conducting the task force in partnership with the Department of Community Health (MDCH), the Department of Human Services (formerly FIA), the Michigan Office of Financial and Insurance Services, and the Michigan State Police.

Each month, the task force has been focusing on a different theme. The next task force meeting will be held **November 3** at the East Lansing Marriott at University Place in **East Lansing**, and it will focus on the theme of guardianship and conservatorship as it relates to elder abuse. The meeting is open to the public, and those attending are encouraged to offer their comments and opinions.

For more information, call **Drew Walker** at OSA (517/241-0851) or e-mail him at walkerdr@michigan.gov.

Proposal Calls for Across-the-Board Cuts to Critical Services

According to the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A), a proposal has just surfaced in Congress to impose 2-4 percent across-the-board cuts to all discretionary programs for 2005-2006.

The N4A says it is taking this proposal seriously, because these cuts would be very harmful, especially given the growing demand for aging services. The proposed across the board cuts to discretionary programs of at least 2 percent, and possibly as much as 4 percent, would have a significant impact on Older Americans Act (OAA) funding levels.

According to the N4A, now is not the time to cut Medicaid, food stamps and other critical services for people in need. These programs have become even more vital in the aftermath of Hurricane's Katrina and Rita, and with fuel costs projected to increase dramatically this winter, senior adults no matter where they live will need them more than ever.

Members of Congress will want to know the impact these proposed cuts would have on their constituents.

Report on Michigan Public Forums Now Available

Last spring, OSA held five public forums around the state to hear about what Michigan citizens feel are important issues facing the state's older population. The recommendations from those public forums are now found in a report entitled "Public Input on Creating a Policy Agenda for Aging in Michigan."

A limited number of these printed reports are available upon request. Write to OSA (7109 W. Saginaw, P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, 48909-8176). Otherwise, they can be accessed and downloaded from the OSA website, www.miseniors.net.

The five public forums were conducted to facilitate a plan for meeting the needs of the Baby Boom generation, the first ones reaching age 60 in 2006. From Grand Rapids to Troy and Detroit, and from Saginaw to St. Ignace, more than 600 people attended to offer their ideas about issues important to senior adults: health care, economic security, caregiving, and building elder friendly, livable communities. They represented a broad cross section of people, interests and geography (urban, suburban and rural).

The recommendations that had implications for federal aging policy have been forwarded to the 2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA) that will be held in December in Washington, DC. Those impacting state aging policy will be used in developing the next State Plan for Aging Services, and in advocacy efforts toward enacting state legislation.

For more information, call **Shirley Bentsen** at OSA (517/373-8765). Or you can e-mail her at bentsens@michigan.gov.

2004 NAPIS Report for Michigan Now Online

The 2004 Michigan Aging Information System Client and Service Report can be accessed online, and downloaded from www.miseniors.net.

For more information, call **Scott Wamsley** at OSA (517/241-0624) or e-mail him at wamsleys@michigan.gov.

AAA Provides a Labor of Love Survey on Website

The website of the Tri-County Office on Aging (AAA-6) in **Lansing** contains the results of a series of surveys given to Direct Care Workers (DCWs) and their employers in the tri-county area (Clinton, Eaton and Ingham Counties) entitled "A Labor of Love."

Funded by AAA-6, the survey was conducted during 2004-2005 by the Long Term Care Collaborative, a group of public and private agencies involved in various aspects of providing long-term care. The collaborative is interested in the growth and maintenance of a quality direct care workforce.

The survey is designed to establish a baseline profile of the area's workforce, and identify potential areas for advocacy on behalf of the workforce, especially in the areas of recruitment, training and retention. It was mailed to over 200 employers of DCWs. Surveys were returned by employers at 68 agencies and settings employing more than 500 DCWs. Surveys also were returned by 435 DCWs and 252 Home Help DCWs.

Survey results include data on salaries, fringe benefits, recruitment strategies, motivations for taking the job, retention strategies, positive employee motivations, and how employers help their employees to improve. Also the average ages of DSWs, as well as sex, educational levels, household incomes, marital status, years of experience in the field, number of dependents, and major job dissatisfactions.

The survey found "over 87 percent of the DSWs expressed satisfaction with their jobs, despite feeling they were underpaid and without adequate benefits. When asked why then do they intend to stay on the job, DSWs "stressed the personal relationships with the persons they cared for and the satisfaction of doing a job well."

For more information, or to download this 41-page survey report, go to www.tcoa.org and click on "Long Term Care Collaborative: Survey Results of Direct Care Workers" on the homepage, or call 517/887-1440.

Correction

In the last issue of this e-newsletter, dated October 3, under the item entitled "Most Proposed Budget Cuts in Aging Restored by Legislators," it was incorrectly reported that "a \$21,000 reduction for senior volunteer services (Foster Grandparent Programs, Senior Companion Programs and Retired Senior Volunteer Programs) reduced their allocation to \$14,854,300." Instead it should say "a \$21,000 reduction for senior volunteer services (Foster Grandparent Programs, Senior Companion Programs and Retired Senior Volunteer Programs) reduced their allocation to \$5,624,900."

OSA EVENTS/MEETINGS

State Advisory Council on Aging (SAC)

The next meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. **October 20** at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center, 7501 W. Saginaw Highway in **Lansing**. For more information, call **Sally Steiner** at OSA (517/373-8810) or e-mail her at steiners@michigan.gov.

Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA)

The next meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. **October 21**, in conjunction with a public hearing to develop the 2007-2010 State Plan (see "State Plan Hearings" below), at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways, 6650 E. Broadway in **Mt. Pleasant**. For more information, call **Cindy Albrecht** at OSA (517/335-4016) or e-mail her at albrechtc@michigan.gov.

OSA/Area Agency on Aging (AAA) Directors

The next meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. **November 8** in Room 3B above OSA at 7109 W. Saginaw Highway in Lansing. For more information, call **Jan Bowlin** at OSA (517/241-3864) or e-mail her at bowlinj1@michigan.gov, or call **Mary Ablan** at the Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan (517/886-1227) or e-mail her at ablan@iserv.net.

State Plan Hearings

OSA and the Commission on Services to the Aging (CSA) will conduct six hearings this year to obtain public input to develop the 2007-2010 State Plan on Services for Michigan's Older Citizens. Those interested in transportation, nutrition, housing, long-term care (LTC), health, independence, scams, employment, and volunteer opportunities for senior adults, and other issues important to senior adults are invited to attend these free public hearings to express their opinions to policy makers.

All six public hearings will be held 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the following sites:

October 21 at the Ziibiwing Center of Anishinabe Culture & Lifeways in **Mt. Pleasant**

November 18 at the Holiday Inn Lansing West Conference Center in **Lansing**

March 17, 2006 at ACCESS in **Dearborn**

March 21, 2006 at Senior Services, Inc. in **Kalamazoo**

March 29, 2006 at the U of M Flint Conference Center in **Flint**

May 19, 2006 at the Little Bear East Arena & Community Center in **St. Ignace**

In addition to verbal comments by interested individuals at the six hearings, written comments may be submitted by **May 20, 2006** to OSA (7109 West Saginaw Highway, P.O. Box 30676 in **Lansing**, 48909-8176). For more information or directions to the sites, go to the OSA website (www.miseniors.net) or call OSA (517/373-8230).

EVENTS/MEETINGS ADDED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE

What's the Difference About Being Different ?, a brown bag lunch discussion on working along side employees/volunteers with disabilities, sponsored by the Michigan Disabilities Council and the Diversity Work Group **October 25** in the 5th Floor Large Conference Room of the Lewis Cass State Office Building in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/241-8869.

Assessing the Health of Your Nonprofit Organization, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) on the legal issues related to areas of primary concern to nonprofit

organizations **October 26** at the MNA office in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400 or toll-free 888/242-7075.

MLHS Annual Meeting & Public Forum entitled “Providing Essential Services During Difficult Times: Current Realities and Future Challenges” sponsored by the Michigan League for Human Services **November 2** at the Lansing Community College West Campus Center in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.milhs.org or call 517/487-5436. See also the item under the OTHER RESOURCES section of this issue (below).

Advances in Alzheimer Research, an annual research presentation about new developments sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association Michigan Great Lakes Chapter **November 2** at the Hannah Community Center in **East Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.alzmgreatlakes.org or call 800/272-3900.

Fall Conference on Planned Giving, sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA), the Association of Fundraising Professionals Capital Area Chapter, and the Mid-Michigan Planned Giving Council **November 2** at the Burcham Hills Retirement Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400.

20th Annual Dinner and Auction, sponsored by the Tri-County Office on Aging (AAA-6) **November 3** at the Eagle Eye Banquet Center in **East Lansing** with all proceeds going to Meals on Wheels and other in-home services (personal care, homemaker/chore and respite relief for caregivers). For more information, go to www.tcoa.org or call 517/887-1440 or toll-free 800/405-9141.

Federal Funding Face-to-Face, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA), Senator Carl Levin and local organizations **November 3**, at the Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400.

Meet Author Sallie Foley, the author of the book Sex and Love for Grownups: a No-Nonsense Guide to a Life of Passion and also a columnist for AARP Magazine, sponsored by the MFit Health Education Resource Center **November 3** at the East Ann Arbor Health Center in **Ann Arbor**. For more information, call 734/647-5645 or toll free 800/433-6348.

Stepping Forward in Transitions and Change: The Second Half of Life, a workshop sponsored by Central Michigan University (CMU) with a grant from the US Department of Education **November 4-5** at the Birmingham Conference Center (BCC) on the campus of Birmingham Groves High School in **Beverly Hills**. For more information, call toll-free 800/950-1144 or e-mail k.schmittler@cmich.edu.

3rd Annual Professional Caregiver Conference, sponsored by the Alzheimer’s Association Greater Michigan Chapter **November 9** at the Hospice of Michigan in **Detroit**. For more information, call 248/351-0280 (ext. 233).

Principles and Practices for Nonprofit Excellence, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) on the policies and procedures nonprofits need to meet the changing demands of funders and regulators **November 9** at the MNA office in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400 or toll-free 888/242-7075.

Working on the Go: Palm Handheld Tips and Tricks, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) on the basics of using your Palm to manage your work **November**

10 at the MNA office in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400 or toll-free 888/242-7075.

The Self's Expression: Creativity and Individuation in Later Life, a weekend retreat of inspired creativity to invite, inspire and indulge sponsored by the C.J. Jung Center **November 11-13** at the W. Hotel – City Center in **Chicago, IL**. For more information, go to www.cgjungcenter.org or call 847/475-4848.

Nurturing Families Through Recovery, a training sponsored by the Institute for Health and Recovery **November 9** and **November 16** at the Department of Public Health Greater Boston Regional Office in **Roxbury, MA**. For more information, go to www.healthrecovery.org or call 617/661-3991.

Low Cost Ways to Market Your Nonprofit, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) **November 15** at the Foster Community Center in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400.

Finally! Getting Governance Right!, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit / Association (MNA) on how to build a high-performing board of directors that is focused on strategic leadership **November 16** at the MNA office in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400 or toll-free 888/242-7075.

Spiritual Care for All Disciplines, an all-day seminar to explore the principles behind spiritual care and its effect on providing quality care with older adults sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes **November 16** at The Alhambra Retirement Community in **Alhambra, CA** and **November 17** at the Wesley Palms Retirement Community in **San Diego, CA**. For more information, go to www.spiritualityandaging.org or call 714/239-6267.

Facility Projects: Funding and Financing Strategies, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) on how to pay for the project by effectively combining fundraising and strategy **November 17** at the MNA office in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.mnaonline.org or call 517/492-2400 or toll-free 888/242-7075.

Getting Ahead of the Curve: Business and Aging, the 27th Annual Professional Development Institute and Trade Show sponsored by the Partnership for Aging (a partnership between the Southwest Society on Aging and the Mid-America Congress on Aging) **November 17-19** at the Indiana Westin Downtown in **Indianapolis, IN**.

Spiritual Assessment, an all-day seminar sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes to explain how spiritual assessment can be used as a tool and why it is needed **January 19** at the Claremont Manor Retirement Community in **Claremont, CA** and **January 20** at the Fredericka Manor Care Center in **Chula Vista, CA**. For more information, go to www.spiritualityandaging.org or call 714/2396267.

Tools for Spiritual Care, an all-day seminar to explore various techniques for spiritual care through case studies sponsored by the Center for Spirituality and Aging and California Lutheran Homes **March 29** at the Villa Gardens Retirement Community in **Pasadena, CA** and **March 30** at Mt. Miguel Covenant Village in **Spring Valley, CA**. For more information, go to www.spiritualityandaging.org or call 714/239-6267.

MICHIGAN CONFERENCES

Call for Presentations: 7th Annual Art of Aging Successfully Conference, entitled "Learning, Laughing and Caring" sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **March 29, 2006** to showcase the creative interests (crafts, memoirs and music) of non-professional Michigan senior adults age 55 and older. The deadline for submitting entries is **November 1**. For more information, call 313/577-2297 or e-mail to j.mendez@wayne.edu.

MASC 2005 Annual Conference, entitled "Make the Rest the Best: Helping Seniors Get the Most Out of Life in the Second Half" sponsored by the Michigan Association of Senior Centers (MASC) **November 1-3** at the Radisson Plaza Hotel Kalamazoo Center in **Kalamazoo**. For more information, call 269/966-2566, ext. 330 or e-mail to adavis@burnhambrook.com. **Detroit Trauma Symposium**, sponsored by Detroit Receiving Hospital and the Detroit Medical Center **November 10-11** at the Dearborn Inn in **Dearborn**. For more information, go to www.drhuhc.org or call 313/577-5005.

Case Management Across the Lifespan, a conference for health care professionals interested or engaged in case management sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) College of Nursing and the MSU School of Social Work, **November 17** at the MSU Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center. For more information, go to www.nursing.msu.edu/continuingeducation.asp or call toll-free 800/605-6424, option 6.

MICHIGAN NONPROFIT TRAINING EVENTS

Keeping Your Computer Running Smoothly – The Essentials, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and co-sponsored by the Capital Region Community Foundation and Capital Area United Way **October 20** at the MNA in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.mnaonline.org or call toll-free 888/242-7075.

Accommodating Vision and Hearing Loss in Older Adults, a training sponsored by the Health and Human Services Department at Lansing Community College (LCC) **October 21** at LCC in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail to beham@lcc.edu.

Developing a Person-Centered Approach to Care, a training sponsored by the Health and Human Services Department at Lansing Community College (LCC) **October 21** at LCC in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail to beham@lcc.edu.

Running for Office Training, sponsored by the Michigan Women's Commission for women running for public office **October 21-22** at the Grand Valley State University (GVSU) Eberhard Center in **Grand Rapids**. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/mdcr or call 517/373-

Dirty Little Secrets About Publishing, a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **October 25** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Fall 2005 Joint Provider/Surveyor Training, sponsored by the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Bureau of Health Systems to provide a collaborative experience for regulators and providers within a resident care focus **October 25** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**. For more information, call 248/465-7337.

The Nonprofit Organization Mirror, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA) and co-sponsored by the Capital Region Community Foundation and Capital Area United Way **October 27** at the MNA in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.mnaonline.org or call toll-free 888/242-7075.

An Investigation of the Relationships Between Age and Paper Hue Intensity with Reading Speed, Reading Ability and Gender, a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **November 1** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Dementia: Concepts and Causes, a training sponsored by the Health and Human Services Department at Lansing Community College (LCC) **November 4** at LCC in **Lansing**. For more information, call 517/483-1529 or e-mail to beham@lcc.edu.

Building the Annual Fund, a training sponsored by the Michigan Nonprofit Association in partnership with the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, and conducted by the Indiana University Center on Philanthropy Fund Raising School **November 9-10** at the University of Michigan-Dearborn in **Dearborn**. For more information, call toll-free 888/242-7075 or 517/492-2410, or go to www.mnaonline.org.

Grantsmanship Training Program, sponsored by the Grantsmanship Center (TGCI) to offer grant-related training and information **November 14-18** at Lansing Community College in **Lansing**. For more information, go to www.tgci.com or call toll-free 800/421-9512.

New Supports in Old Europe: Healthy Aging and Intellectual Disability, a Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **November 15** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Running for Office Training, sponsored by the Michigan Women's Commission for women running for public office **January 20-21, 2006** at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge Campus in **Farmington Hills**. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/mdcr or call 517/373-2884.

MICHIGAN FOR-PROFIT TRAINING EVENTS

Dealing Effectively with Unacceptable Employee Behavior, a training for managers and supervisors sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **October 31** at The Radisson East Hotel in **Grand Rapids**; **November 1** at the Clarion Hotel & Conference Center in **Lansing**; **November 2** at the Hilton Detroit/Troy in **Troy**; **November 3** at the Courtyard by Marriott in **Flint**; **November 4** at the Best Western Executive Plaza in **Ann Arbor**; **November 18** at the Commonwealth Commerce Center in **Jackson**; and **December 2** at the Comfort Inn in **Farmington Hills**. For more information or to enroll, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Excelling as a First-Time Manager or Supervisor, a training sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **October 31** at the Four Points Hotel Saginaw in **Saginaw**; **November 1** at the Radisson Riverfront in **Grand Rapids**; **December 5** at the Comfort Suites of Marquette in **Marquette**; **December 6** at the Waterfront Inn & Conference Center in **Traverse City**; **December 7** at The Radisson East Hotel in **Grand Rapids**; and **December 8** at the Ramada Inn & Conference Center in **Flint**. For more information or to enroll, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

Grant Writing & Resource Development Workshops, an overview of all available sources of revenue and resources for nonprofits sponsored by Zocklein & Associates **November 1-2** at the Holiday Inn Express in **Belleville**. For more information, go to www.zockgrant.com or call toll-free 800/371-5703.

Leadership Development & Team Building, a training for managers, supervisors and team leaders to learn ways to motivate, inspire, lead and succeed, sponsored by Skillpath Seminars **November 15** at the Lansing Center in **Lansing**. For more information or to enroll, go to www.skillpath.com or call toll-free 800/873-7545.

OTHER MICHIGAN EVENTS/MEETINGS

Social Relationships in Older Adults, a free Fall 2005 Colloquium Series seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **October 20** at the Merrill-Palmer Institute in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Father Knows Best (Unless I Know Better), a free Fall 2005 Colloquium and Professional Development seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **October 20** at the Freer House next door to the IOG in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

General MADSA Membership Meeting, sponsored by the Michigan Association of Adult Day Services Association (MADSA) **October 21** at the Michigan Chamber of Commerce in **Lansing**. For more information, call toll-free 877/362-2322 or e-mail to madsa@earthlink.com.

Understanding Alzheimer's, an orientation program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Great Lakes Chapter **October 22** at the Sparrow Professional Building in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.alzmgreatlakes.org or call toll-free 800/272-3900.

IOG Annual Fall Open House, sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) and featuring poster presentations by graduate students and faculty **October**

27 at the WSU Knapp Building in **Detroit**. For more information or to RSVP, call 313/577-2297 or e-mail to j.mendez@wayne.edu.

Rituals of Our Times: Celebrating, Healing and Changing Our Lives and Our Relationships, a lecture sponsored by the Michigan State University (MSU) School of Social Work College of Social Science **October 28** at the MSU Kellogg Center in **East Lansing**. For more information, call 517/432-3728.

Design Compensations for Age, Gender and Reading, a free 2005 Colloquium Series seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **November 1** at the Merrill-Palmer Institute in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Homeless Awareness Week, proclaimed by **Gov. Jennifer Granholm** on behalf of the citizens of Michigan to be observed **November 13-19**. For more information, go to www.mihomeless.org.

New Supports in Old Europe: Healthy Aging and Intellectual Disability, a free 2005 Colloquium Series seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **November 15** at the Merrill-Palmer Institute in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Grandparent Caregiving and Hypertension, a free 2005 Colloquium Series seminar sponsored by the Wayne State University (WSU) Institute of Gerontology (IOG) **December 2** at the Merrill-Palmer Institute in **Detroit**. For more information, go to www.iog.wayne.edu or call 313/577-2297.

Understanding Alzheimer's, an orientation program sponsored by the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Great Lakes Chapter **December 14** at the Tri-County Office on Aging (AAA-6) in **Lansing**. For more information or to register, go to www.alzmigreatlakes.org or call toll-free 800/272-3900.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS OUTSIDE MICHIGAN

Workplace Diversity: New Challenges New Opportunities, a conference sponsored by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) to provide diversity-related resources and services **October 24-26** Caesars Palace in **Las Vegas, NV**. For more information, go to www.shrm.org/conferences/diversity or call toll-free 800/283-7476.

Caregiver Conference, sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging and Southern Illinois University (SIU) **October 26** at Northfield Center in **Springfield, IL**. For more information, call 217/557-8312.

The GIA 2005 Annual Conference, entitled "Aging with Attitude: Transforming our Communities and Our Nation" sponsored by Grantmakers in Aging (GIA) **October 26-28** at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel in **Baltimore, MD**. For more information, go to www.giaging.org or call 937/435-3156.

Senior Housing and Assisted Living Conference, sponsored by Life Services Network

October 27-28 at the Lisle-Naperville Hilton in **Naperville, IL**. For more information, call 630/325-6170.

The Second National Medicare Prescription Drug Congress, a forum sponsored by organizations such as the Medical Education Collaborative, Health Affairs and the Harvard Health Policy Review **October 31-November 2** at the Wyatt Regency Capitol Hill in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.medicarecongress.com or call toll-free 800/684-4549.

NGA 18th Annual Conference, entitled “Come Rock with the Guardians Rolling into the Future” sponsored by the National Guardianship Association (NGA) **November 6-9** at the Renaissance Cleveland Hotel in **Cleveland, OH**. For more information, go to www.guardianship.org or call 520/881-6561, ext. 103.

23rd Annual Hospice Conference of Southwestern Illinois, entitled “An Amazing Journey: What the Dying Learn About Living” sponsored by the Southern Illinois University (SIU) Gerontology Program **November 8** in **Edwardsville, IL**. For more information, call 618/650-3454.

Embracing Challenges During Life Threatening Illnesses, a conference for professional caregivers sponsored **November 15** by the Windsor/Essex Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) at the Ciociaro Club in **Oldcastle, Ontario CANADA**. For more information, go to www.we.ccac-ont.ca, e-mail to amy.ouellette@we.ccac-ont.ca, or call 519/258-1088, ext. 339.

27th Annual Professional Development Institute & Trade Show, entitled “The Business of Aging: Getting Ahead of the Curve” sponsored by Partnerships for Aging (a partnership between the Southwest Society on Aging and the Mid-America Congress on Aging) **November 17-19** at the Indianapolis Westin Hotel Downtown in **Indianapolis, IN**. For more information, go to www.partnershipsforaging.org or call 405/744-7511.

GSA 58th Annual Scientific Meeting, a conference entitled “The Interdisciplinary Mandate” sponsored by The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in cooperation with the American Federation for Aging Research (AFAR) **November 18-22** at the Orlando World Center Marriott in **Orlando, FL**. For more information, go to www.agingconference.com or call 202/842-1275.

Celebrate Direct-Care Workers, a conference sponsored by Pioneer Alliance and the Direct Care Alliance **November 30-December 2** at the Wyndham Palace Resort and Spa in **Orlando, FL**. For more information, go to www.celebratedirectcareworkers.org or call 202/223-8355, ext. 109.

2005 National Triad Training Symposium, sponsored by the National Association of Triads, Inc. (NATI) **December 5-8** at the Bayview Resort & Spa at the Grand Casino in **Biloxi, MS**. For more information, go to www.nationaltriad.org or call toll-free 800/424-7827.

Governor’s Conference on Aging, sponsored by the Illinois Department on Aging **December 7-9** at the Marriott Downtown Chicago in **Chicago, IL**. For more information, call 217/785-3377.

2005 White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA), entitled “The Booming Dynamics of Aging: From Awareness to Action” conducted by the Administration on Aging (AoA) **December 11-14** in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.whcoa.gov.

Guardianship Mediation Training, sponsored by the Stetson University College of Law **January 9-14, 2006** at the College of Law in **Gulfport, FL**. For more information, go to www.law.stetson.edu/cle or call 813/228-0226.

World Parkinson Congress, sponsored by the World Parkinson Congress and the National Institutes of Health **February 22-26, 2006** at the Washington Convention Center in **Washington, DC**. For more information, go to www.worldpdcongress.org or call 972/395-1119.

2006 Joint Conference, entitled "Strengthening Families, Communities and Ourselves" co-sponsored by the National Council on the Aging (NCoA) and the American Society on Aging (ASA) **March 16-19, 2006** at the Hilton Anaheim and the Anaheim Marriott in **Anaheim, CA**. For more information, go to www.asaging.org.

FEDERAL REGISTER

(September 12-30)

The Federal Register is the daily publication of the National Archives and Records Administration. It outlines rules, proposed rules, and notices of federal agencies and organizations, as well as Executive Orders and other Presidential documents.

To access the Federal Register, go to www.gpoaccess.gov/fr/browse.html, the GPO Access homepage. Up will come "Federal Register: Browse." Also "Current Issue" or "Back Issues." For "Back issues," select the year and click on "Go." For current year issues, select "2005" and click on "GO." Then click on the date of the issue you want to access.

CMS Sets Immunization Standard for LTC Facilities

See the Federal Register dated **October 7** (Vol. 70, No. 194). Go to Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services " and see "Rules, Medicare and Medicaid." The goal of this final rule from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), effective **October 7**, is to increase immunization rates in Medicare and Medicaid participating long-term care (LTC) facilities by requiring LTC facilities to offer each resident immunization against influenza annually, as well as lifetime immunization against pneumococcal disease. LTC facilities will be required to ensure that before offering the immunization, each resident, or the resident's legal representative receives education regarding the benefits and potential side effects of the immunization. The facilities will be required to offer immunization against influenza annually and immunization against pneumococcal disease once, unless medically contraindicated or the resident or the resident's legal representative refuses immunization. This final rule is intended to increase the number of elders receiving influenza and pneumococcal immunization, and decrease the morbidity and mortality rate from influenza and pneumococcal diseases. For more information, call 410/786-5646 or 410/786-3164.

LSC Announces Intention to Award Grants to Provide Legal Services

See the Federal Register dated **October 7** (Vol. 70, No. 194). Go to "Legal Services Corporation" and see "Notices, Grant and cooperative agreement awards." This announces the intention of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) to award grants and contracts to provide economical and effective delivery of high quality civil legal services to eligible low-income clients, beginning **January 1, 2006**. LSC intends to award funds to the following organizations

to provide civil legal services in Michigan. They are: Legal Services of South Central Michigan (\$1,198,354 and \$548,103); Legal Services of Eastern Michigan (\$1,310,087); Legal Services of Northern Michigan (671,990); Western Michigan Legal Services (\$1,544,754); Legal Aid and Defender of Detroit (\$3,613,379); and Michigan Indian Legal Services Inc. (\$150,220). Public comment must be received by **November 7** concerning these potential grantees. For more information, call 202/295-1545 or e-mail to haley@lsc.gov.

LEGISLATION

The following bills are listed for informational/educational purposes only. The list does not constitute OSA support or endorsement. Nor does it indicate the critical bills OSA considers to be of priority. All of this information is current, as of the date of this issue. But it is subject to change at any time through legislative action.

For more information about the content and legislative history of a particular bill, go to www.legislature.mi.gov (the Michigan Legislature website) and enter the bill number in the box under "Legislative Bill Search." Then click on "Go!" and the status page of the bill will appear with current information about the bill. Click on a "PDF" or "TXT" box for a copy of the latest version of the bill, or a House or Senate analysis of the bill.

The Michigan Legislature website (www.michiganlegislature.org) is a free service of the Legislative Internet Technology Team in cooperation with the Michigan Legislative Council, the Michigan House of Representatives, and the Michigan Senate. Also, call the Michigan Law Library at 517/373-0630 for legal research questions.

If you have a question or opinion about any of these bills, contact your state legislator. Also, e-mail comments to **OSA Director Sharon Gire** at osadirector@michigan.gov, or mail them to her at OSA (P.O. Box 30676 in Lansing, 48909-8176).

New House Bills (Since October 3)

House Bill (HB) 5263 (2005)

Financial institutions; banks; reporting of elderly financial abuse; require. Amends Public Act (PA) 276 of 1999. Sponsored by **Rep. LaMar Lemmons III** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services 10-6-05.

House Bill (HB) 5286 (2005)

Property tax; exemptions; tax-exempt status on property acquired for investment purposes by retirement systems; eliminate. Amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Rick Jones** (R-Grand Ledge). Referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy 10-12-05.

House Bill (HB) 5289 (2005)

Retirement; judges; age of retirement for judges; increase to 75 years of age. Amends Public Act (PA) 234 of 1992. Sponsored by **Rep. LaMar Lemmons III** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the House Committee on Judiciary 10-12-05.

New Senate Bills (Since October 3)

Senate Bill (SB) 809 (2005)

Vehicles; registration; reduced rate for wheelchair bound drivers; extend to sport utility vehicles. Amends Public Act (PA) 300 of 1949. Sponsored by **Sen. Valde Garcia** (R-Howell) and co-sponsored by five others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Transportation 10-12-05.

Bills that have Moved

(Since June 1)

See Changes to **SB 267**, **SB 271** (now PA 147), **HB 4789**, **HB 4792**, **HB 4831** (now PA 154), **HB 4996** (now PA 161), **HB 5055** and **HB 5183**.

House Bill (HB) 4037 (2005)

This bill would require the establishment of a toll-free telephone number providing consumers with information on Michigan prescription drug programs. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Paul Condino** (D-Southfield) and co-sponsored by two others, this bill is tie-barred to HB 4559 (which means neither bill can take effect unless both do). Referred to the House Committee on Health Policy 1-27-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analyses 5-2-05 and 5-16-05. House substitute bill adopted 5-17-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 6-29-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Health Policy 6-30-05.

House Bill (HB) 4626 (2005)

Insurance; health; liability for certain harm to enrollee; provide for. Amends Public Act (PA) 218 of 1956. Sponsored by **Rep. Paul Condino** (D-Southfield) and co-sponsored by 12 others. Referred to the House Committee on Insurance 4-19-05. Reported with recommendation with House substitute bill 6-21-05. Referred to second reading 6-21-05.

House Bill (HB) 4773 (2005)

Torts; product liability; immunity from liability for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; rescind. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by **Rep. Dianne Byrum** (D-Onondaga) and co-sponsored by 37 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-11-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 4789 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to address the use of "dining assistants" by nursing homes. It would allow nursing homes to use dining assistants to feed residents who need assistance or encouragement with eating and drinking but do not have complicated feeding problems, such as difficulty swallowing, recurrent lung aspirations, and tube or parenteral feedings. The use of a dining assistant would be based on a charge nurse's assessment of the resident and that resident's most recent plan of care. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by Rep. **Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. Reported with recommendation with House Substitute Bill 10-11-05. Referred to second reading 10-11-05.

House Bill (HB) 4792 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to specify that the Department of Community Health (MDCH) transmit to a nursing home a written or electronic copy of the results of each visit and survey conducted within 15 days after the visit. Within 24 hours after receiving the report, the nursing home would have to post it in a conspicuous place in the home for public

review. MDCH would be required to post the report in a searchable format on its website within 30 days after the visit was conducted. Within 45 days after receiving the report, the nursing home would have to notify its residents that the report had been received and was posted within the nursing home, and was available on the Internet through the MDCH website. A nursing home could satisfy the notification by including a notification in a monthly newsletter or other written documentation, distributed to the resident, the resident's family member or designated representative, or by posting a notice at the entrance of the nursing home. In addition, the bill would require that, before renewing a license, MDCH review the most recent inspection, survey and evaluation of that facility, and any written determination made concerning a complaint filed within the previous two years. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by Rep. **Paula Zelenko** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by two others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 5-17-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 10-10-05. Reported with recommendation with House Substitute Bill 10-11-05. Referred to second reading 10-11-05.

House Bill (HB) 4811 (2005)

Torts; liability; liability suits brought against drug manufacturers for drugs that have been approved by federal food and drug administration; allow. Amends Public Act (PA) 236 of 1961. Sponsored by Rep. **Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 5-19-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 5002 (2005)

Health facilities; hospitals; quality assurance assessment; extend sunset and increase hospital appropriation. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by Rep. **Alma Smith** (D-Ypsilanti) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-23-05. Reported with recommendation without amendment(s) 6-28-05. Referred to second reading 6-28-05.

House Bill (HB) 5055 (2005)

Currently the Public Health Code allows the Department of Community Health to assess a quality assurance assessment fee for nursing homes and hospital long-term care units, excluding governmentally owned nursing homes. This bill would amend the Public Health Code to include governmentally owned nursing homes in the assessment. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by Rep. **Bruce Caswell** (R-Hillsdale). Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 7-13-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 7-13-05. Passed by the House and given immediate effect 8-31-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 9-6-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 10-7-05. Senate Substitute Bill concurred in by the Senate 10-11-05. Passed by the Senate and given immediate effect 10-12-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis as passed by the Senate 10-12-05. Senate Substitute Bill concurred in by the House 10-12-05. Bill ordered enrolled 10-12-05.

House Bill (HB) 5071 (2005)

Consumer protection; unfair trade practices; liability for inaccurate representations concerning risks of certain drugs, medications, and supplements; clarify. Amends Public Act (PA) 331 of 1976. Sponsored by Rep. **Marie Donigan** (D-Royal Oak) and co-sponsored by four others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 7-27-05. Notice given to discharge committee 9-7-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-8-05. Placed on second reading 9-8-05.

House Bill (HB) 5081 (2005)

This bill would permit an individual who is unable to write to use his or her fingerprints as a

written signature. That is, visible fingerprints would be included as a “paper mark.” Amends RS 1 of 1846 (MCL 8.3q). Sponsored by **Rep. Leon Drolet** (R-Clinton Township). Referred to the House Committee on Government Relations 8-10-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved by the House 9-6-05. Placed on second reading 9-6-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-7-05. Re-referred to the House Committee on Governmental Operations 9-28-05.

House Bill (HB) 5139 (2005)

Civil procedure, statute of limitations; drug product liability cases previously prohibited because of FDA approval defense; allow to be commenced within 3 years of repeal of defense. Amends PA 236 of 1961. Tie barred with HB 4773 (2005). Sponsored by **Rep. Gary McDowell** (D-Rudyard) and co-sponsored by 10 others. Referred to the House Committee on Commerce 9-7-05. Notice given to discharge committee 8-31-05. Motion to discharge committee approved 9-6-05. Placed on second reading 9-6-05.

House Bill (HB) 5183 (2005)

This bill would amend the Public Health Code to require a nursing home, county medical care facility, or home for the aged to provide each employee who would provide direct services to patients or residents with a written notice of its substance abuse testing policy. The written notice would have to be provided upon hiring and contain the following: (a) The grounds on which an employee may be required to submit to a test. (b) Consequences for refusing to submit to a test. (c) Appeal procedures for challenging the results of the test. (d) Notice and testing requirements. A nursing home, county medical care facility, or home for the aged could require an employee who provides direct services to patients or residents in the facility or agency to submit to substance abuse testing as a condition of employment if the facility has probable cause to suspect the employee of substance abuse. A health care agency that requires an employee to submit to a test under the act would be required to pay all costs involved in the substance abuse test. Amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Joe Hune** (R-Hamburg) and co-sponsored by three others. Referred to the House Committee on Senior Health, Security, and Retirement 9-15-05. House Fiscal Agency (HFA) Legislative Analysis 9-27-05. Reported with recommendation with House Substitute Bill 10-11-05. Referred to second reading 10-11-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 43 (2005)

This bill would amend the Income Tax Act to allow a physician with a medical care practice in a designated health professional shortage area to claim a \$2,500 income tax credit for up to three consecutive years beginning after December 31, 2005, or claim the credit for any three years within a five year period if he or she interrupted his or her practice for a continuing education program or a sabbatical. It also would reduce the amount of the credit for a physician with a part-time practice. This credit would be for a physician who provides primary care to patients, including indigent patients, as part of his or her full-time or part-time medical care services in a designated health professional shortage area. Sponsored by **Sen. Samuel Thomas III** (D-Detroit). Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance 1-25-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 6-8-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill (6-14-05). Senate Fiscal Analysis 6-15-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 267 (2005)

Appropriations; community health; Department of Community Health; provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Sen. Deborah Cherry** (D-Burton) and co-sponsored by one other. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 3-2-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 6-6-05 and 6-9-05. Reported by the Senate Committee on the Whole

favorably with Senate substitute bill and amendments. Senate substitute bill concurred in by the Senate as amended 6-14-05. Passed by the Senate 6-14-05. Referred to the House Committee on Appropriations 6-16-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 6-22-05. House substitute bill adopted by the Senate 6-28-05. Passed by the House 6-28-05. Returned to the Senate 6-28-05. House substitute bill nonconcurred in by the Senate 6-30-05. Referred to Conference Committee 9-13-05. Conference Report received by the Senate 10-11-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations 10-11-05. Senate reconsidered nonconcurrence with House Bill 10-11-05.

Senate Bill (SB) 334 (2005)

This bill would amend the Customer Choice and Electricity Reliability Act (the act) to create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Program within the Public Service Commission (PSC); require the PSC to implement a low income energy assistance and efficiency factor that would be a nonbypassable surcharge payable by every customer receiving a distribution service from a natural gas or electric utility with rates regulated by the PSC; create the Low Income Energy Assistance and Efficiency Fund within the State Treasury, and require money collected through the surcharge to be deposited into the fund; allow the PSC, in consultation with the Attorney General, to authorize the State Treasurer to make disbursements from the fund through a grant process to any entity that provided assistance to utility customers; and repeal Section 6c of the act which allows the PSC to approve energy conservation programs for residential customers, and fund those programs through general utility rates. Amends Public Act (PA) 3 of 1939. Sponsored by **Sen. Bruce Patterson** (R-Canton) and co-sponsored by 15 others. Referred to the Senate Committee on Technology and Energy 3-22-05. Senate Fiscal Analyses 4-27-05 and 5-24-05. Referred to the Senate Committee of the Whole with Senate substitute bill 5-24-05. Senate Fiscal Analysis 5-25-05. Referred to the Senate Committee on Government Operations 9-14-05.

2005 Public Acts

House Bill (HB) 4188 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 24 of 2005

This bill amends the General Property Tax Act to increase from \$25,000 to \$35,000 the maximum household income of a taxpayer 62 years old, or older, who may defer the collection of summer property taxes, and to remove the income limit for other taxpayers eligible for the summer tax collection deferral. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Rep. Tory Rocca** (R-Sterling Heights) and co-sponsored by 72 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 5-23-05, and assigned PA 24 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4434 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 72 of 2005

This bill amends the Public Health Code to provide that pharmacies that shared a real-time, online database or other equivalent means of communication, or pharmacies that transferred prescriptions pursuant to a written contract for centralized prescription processing services, would not have to follow the procedure established in the Code to refill a copy of a prescription from another pharmacy. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt) and co-sponsored by 82 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-19-05, and assigned PA 72 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Senate Bill (SB) 352 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 73 (2005)

This bill amends the Public Health Code to allow a pharmacy to perform centralized prescription

processing services or outsource those services to another pharmacy if certain conditions are met. It amends Public Act 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Sen. Bill Hardiman** (R-Kentwood) and co-sponsored by 23 others, this bill was tie-barred to HB 4434. It was **approved by Gov. Granholm 8-31-05, and assigned PA 73 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4405 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 85 of 2005

This bill amends the Public Health Code to eliminate the authority of a disciplinary subcommittee to impose sanctions against a pharmacist for employing the mail to sell, distribute, or deliver a drug that requires a prescription when the prescription for the drug is received by mail. It amends Public Act (PA) 368 of 1978. Sponsored by **Rep. Gretchen Whitmer** (D-East Lansing) and co-sponsored by 63 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 7-20-05, and assigned PA 85 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4436 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 109 of 2005

Appropriations; zero budget; supplemental appropriations; provide for fiscal year 2004-2005. This bill increases private funds authorization for OSA \$75,000 to recognize private contributions for administering the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program for Seniors, or Project FRESH. Federal funds support the food costs, and the administrative costs must be supported by the state and other contributors. It creates a new appropriations act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-15-05, and assigned PA 109 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Senate Bill (SB) 348 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 114 of 2005

The General Property Tax Act requires local tax collecting units that collect a summer property tax to defer the collection, at the taxpayer's request, until the following February 15 for the principal residence of taxpayers with a household income of \$35,000 or less. To be eligible for the deferment, a taxpayer must be totally and permanently disabled, blind, paraplegic, quadriplegic, or an eligible serviceperson or an eligible veteran (or be the widow or widower of such a person). The deferment is also available to taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at time of death. This bill eliminates the income requirement for these taxpayers, except for taxpayers who are at least 62 years of age, or the unremarried surviving spouse of a person who was at least 62 years of age at the time of death. For those taxpayers, the income threshold will increase to \$37,500 for the 2006 tax year and to \$40,000 for the 2007 tax year and beyond. It amends Public Act (PA) 206 of 1893. Sponsored by **Sen. Nancy Cassis** (R-Novi) and co-sponsored by four others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 9-21-05, and assigned PA 114 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

Senate Bill (SB) 271 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 147 of 2005

Appropriations; Family Independence Agency (now the Department of Human Services); provide for fiscal year 2005-2006. Creates appropriations act. Sponsored by **Sen. Martha Scott** (D-Detroit) and co-sponsored by one other, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line-items vetoed, and assigned PA 147 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4831 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 154 of 2005

Appropriations; other; zero budget appropriations bill; provide for fiscal years 2005 and 2006.

Creates appropriation act. Sponsored by **Rep. Scott Hummel** (R-DeWitt), it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-5-05 with line items vetoed, and assigned PA 154 with immediate effect.**

House Bill (HB) 4996 (2005)

Public Act (PA) 161 of 2005

Under provisions of the Public Health Code, dental hygienists, under the supervision of a dentist, can now provide dental hygiene services to patients who have not first been examined by a dentist as part of a program for “dentally underserved” patients conducted by a local, state, or federal grantee health agency. This bill amends the Public Health Code to revise the criteria for designation as a grantee health agency to include, for example, a public or nonprofit entity, or a school or nursing home that administers a program of dental care to a dentally underserved population. Sponsored by **Rep. Barb Vander Veen** (R-Allendale) and co-sponsored by 36 others, it was **approved by Gov. Granholm 10-4-05, and assigned PA 161 of 2005 with immediate effect.**

FOUNDATIONS

Brookdale Foundation Issues RFP for RAPP Grants

The Brookdale Foundation has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for its Relatives as Parents Program (RAPP) Local and Regional Seed Grant Initiatives for 2005-2006. Up to 15 local agencies will be chosen from around the country. Each will receive a \$10,000 two-year grant (\$6,000 the first year, and if they meet the requirements, \$4,000 for the second year), as well as training and technical assistance.

RAPP is designed to encourage and promote the creation or expansion of services for grandparents and other relatives who have taken on the responsibility of surrogate parenting when the biological parents are unable to do so.

The program is intended to (1) award seed grants to local agencies to provide support groups and at least two other services to caregivers who are relatives and their families; (2) encourage cooperation and collaboration among various service systems, such as child welfare, health care, aging services, family services and mental health; (3) ensure the development, expansion and future continuity of local services; and (4) create replicable models of service.

All selected agencies must be a 501(c)(3) entity, or have an equivalent tax-exempt status. Matching support in the form of cash or in-kind contributions also will be required. Priority will be given to agencies that have access to relative caregivers, provide supportive services, and demonstrate broad community involvement and support.

Copies of the RFP, the guidelines and application can be downloaded from the foundation's website www.brookdalefoundation.org. The deadline for submitting grant applications is **January 12, 2006**. For more information, go to the foundation's website, call 212/308-7355, or e-mail mpp@brookdalefoundation.org.

OTHER RESOURCES

MLHS Annual Meeting to Focus on Providing Essential Services

Michigan is entering its sixth year of reductions in program funding because of a lagging economy. These reductions have resulted in a loss of services to individuals, including senior adults, in every part of the state.

That is the reason for this year's Annual Meeting and Public Forum sponsored by the Michigan League of Human Services (MLHS) **November 2** at the Lansing Community College West Campus Center in **Lansing** entitled "Providing Essential Services During Difficult Times: Current Realities and Future Challenges."

Forum speakers will include **David Hollister**, Director of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Growth (DLEG); **Paul Reinhart**, MDCH Medicaid Director, and **Marianne Udow**, Director of the Michigan Department of Human Services (now DHS, formerly FIA).

For more information, go to www.milhs.org or call 517/487-5436.

Michigan Survey to Benefit Nonprofits

The 2006 Michigan Nonprofit Compensation and Benefit Survey is now in full swing, and nonprofit organizations can still apply to participate. The survey will be conducted through **October 31**.

Sponsoring groups include the Michigan Nonprofit Association (MNA), the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership, the Great Lakes Nonprofit Institute, the Nonprofit Alliance, Nonprofit Enterprise at Work and the Michigan League for Human Services.

The survey will show how a nonprofit organization compares to other nonprofits in Michigan, and what it takes to be competitive in staff recruitment. The survey will provide a picture of salary information for 68 nonprofit job titles, a comparative analysis of nonprofit benefit packages, and a current look at executive compensation. Organizations also will be looked at as a whole by geography and budget size. Although an organization's data will be incorporated into the study, individual data will not be released.

The survey instrument is available online or in printed hard copy form. To access it online, go to www.qvsu.edu/jcp/survey/survey.cfm. This will be the third biennial statewide survey. Reports from previous surveys are available online at www.mnaonline.org.

All Michigan nonprofit organizations with paid staff are encouraged to participate in this important study. Their input is vital. It should take approximately one hour to complete the survey online. Participating organizations will receive a free final report during **May, 2006**. For those unable to participate, the final report will cost \$45.00.

Survey participants will need a survey number and password. Nonprofits that did not have a survey number and password mailed to them will need a new number and password. To obtain this, or for more information, call 616/331-7593 or e-mail nanzerp@qvsu.edu.

Anonymous Mental Health Screening Available to Retirees and Others

Anyone, including a retiree, who has trouble concentrating, or who is worried or impacted by

hurricane disasters, or has lost interest in things he/she once enjoyed, or feels sad, hopeless or suicidal may be experiencing symptoms due to depression or a related condition such as bipolar disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, or generalized anxiety disorder.

They are invited to take a free mental health screening. They can find out if they are at risk by taking this anonymous depression screening. Recognizing the need for treatment and taking action can help change their lives.

This can be done online or by telephone. Go to www.mentalhealthscreening.org/screening (keyword “espmi”) or call 800/887-5676 and respond to a few pre-recorded questions. Participants will receive immediate feedback if their answers are consistent with any of the symptoms described (see the first paragraph above). They also will be given information about how to obtain a professional evaluation and possible treatment services for depression, manic depression or a related disorder.

For more information, call 517/521-1377 or 313/456-4020, or toll-free 800/8725563.

Medicare Handbook Error Requires Notifying Elders

Oops! The government’s official handbook for explaining Medicare to elder beneficiaries, entitled Medicare & You, contains an error about the new drug benefit that begins **January 1, 2006**. That means 35 million senior adults will receive incorrect information about the prescription drug plans available with no monthly premiums for low-income beneficiaries.

The handbook lists all of the plans available for those with limited assets and income (not exceeding \$14,355 for an individual or \$19,245 for a couple) as having no monthly premium. But only about 40 percent of the plans actually qualify for no premium.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will work with senior groups to help them get the correct information about what plans qualify for no premium, but meanwhile there are some things Michigan service providers can do.

If you are counseling someone who qualifies for extra help in comparing Medicare prescription drug plans, tell them about the error in the handbook. Inform them that not all plans listed are available for no premium. Help people who qualify for extra help to find and compare the plans that are available for no premium.

CMS will post corrected versions of the handbook that contains this corrected information on its website, www.medicare.gov. After **October 17** the actual premium amounts to help elders make an informed decision can be found on www.medicare.gov or by calling 800/633-4227 (TTY 877/486-4028). For more detailed questions and answers about this error, go to www.cms.hhs.gov/partnerships.

WEBSITES

www.aarp.org/health/comparedrugs/ is the website for individuals to compare drugs and prices either by looking up a specific drug or by searching for drugs by health condition.

www.dotcr.ost.dot.gov/asp/emergencyprep.asp is the website of the US Department of

Transportation (DOT) that contains information to help ensure safe and secure transportation for people with disabilities in the event of a disaster or emergency.

www.etriloquist.com is the website created by a son, gifted in computers, as a communication aide for his Dad who suffers from ALS. It provides PC-based communication aid software that is designed to serve as an electronic voice for people who cannot speak on their own, and can be downloaded free from the website.

www.healthyagingprograms.org is the website of the Center for Healthy Aging. It has developed a National Action Plan, aimed at consumers, health care providers and policy makers, that can be downloaded from this website.

www.healthinaging.org/agingintheknow/ is the website of the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) to provide free and comprehensive state-of-the art information on older adult health issues. Topics fall into three categories: how we age, healthcare decisions, and specific diseases, such as osteoporosis.

www.socialworkers.org is the website of the National Association of Social Workers to post opening positions/jobs online for educated, skilled social work professionals.

www.videopress.org is the website of the University of Maryland School of Medicine to provide information on the rental or sale of videos and DVDs on topics including, but not limited to, "Perspectives of the Elderly," geriatrics, Alzheimer's Disease, abuse, pain, long-term care and staff training.

ABOUT RESOURCES FOR AGING

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor
Sharon L. Gire, OSA Director

This biweekly electronic newsletter (e-newsletter) from the **Michigan Office of Services to the Aging (OSA)** is available to anyone at no cost.

If you wish to receive it directly by e-mail, send your request to **David Dekker** at dekkerd@michigan.gov. Please include your name, e-mail address, organization/agency and telephone number.

The events/meetings, funding/grants, and other resources described in [Resources for Aging](#) should not be interpreted as constituting OSA endorsement. This information is presented for informational/educational purposes only.

Comments and suggestions are appreciated, and readers are invited to submit them to dekkerd@michigan.gov. Also, readers are invited to submit information to be considered for publication. Please send it to dekkerd@michigan.gov or to [Resources for Aging](#), P.O. Box 30676, Lansing, MI 48909-8176. Please include your name, organization/agency, telephone number and e-mail address.

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